

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the consideration of the present application afforded by the Examiner. Claims 1-7, 9-10, and 31-34 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claim 34 has been canceled through this Reply. Therefore, claims 1-7, 9-10, and 31-33 are pending. Claim 1 is independent. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-7, 9-10, and 31-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,180,626 to Gassho et al. (“Gassho”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,227,838 to O’Riordan (“O’Riordan”). Applicants submit the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness and traverse the rejection.

For a 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection to be proper, a *prima facie* case of obviousness must be established. *See M.P.E.P. 2142*. One requirement to establish *prima facie* case of obviousness is that the prior art references, when combined, must teach or suggest all claim limitations. *See M.P.E.P. 2142; M.P.E.P. 706.02(j)*. Thus, if the cited references fail to teach or suggest one or more elements, then the rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of dependent claim 34. Independent claim 1 now recites an information processing device comprising, *inter alia*, “a frame analysis section for analyzing whether the received data is data transmitted to a particular address of the information processing device or not and whether the received data is data transmitted to the specific address or not, wherein the registration processing section adds and registers all the data transmitted to the particular address into the storage section.”

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the information processing device of the claimed invention reads on the combination of printer 50 and print load distribution apparatus 80 disclosed in Gassho. *See Office Action, pages 2-3; Gassho, Figure 3*. According to the Examiner’s interpretation of Gassho in this manner, it follows that “a particular address of the information processing device” as now recited in claim 1 would correspond to a particular address of the combination of printer 50 and print load distribution apparatus 80.

However, Gassho does **not** teach or suggest any such particular address for the printer 50 and distribution apparatus 80. Gassho expressly discloses that printer 50 and print load distribution apparatus 80 are connected with computer network 90 via respective network control circuits. *See Figure 2, refs. 80e, 50e.* Clearly, Gassho cannot teach that the combination of printer 50 and print load distribution apparatus 80 have **a** particular address. Therefore, the particular address as claimed is not shown by the applied prior art and is a distinguishing feature.

Furthermore, in his rejection of prior claim 34 the Examiner alleges that the job receiver unit 101 of Gassho obviates the registration processing section of the present application. The Examiner also asserts that the network control circuit 80e corresponds to the claimed frame analysis section. *See Office Action, page 9.* Applicants must traverse.

The registration processing section and frame analysis sections of the claimed invention deal with the received data in a manner distinct from Gassho. According to the claimed invention, the received data is handled differently depending on whether the destination address of the received data is a specific address or a particular address. Claim 1 states that the specific address is a shared address commonly used to address the information processing device and to address the one or more other information processing devices. Claim 1 recites that the active status allows additional registration of the data transmitted to the specific address. In other words, data transmitted to a specific address (shared address) is additionally registered into the storage section of the information processing device only when in an active status. On the other hand, according to the features of prior claim 34, *the registration processing section adds and registers all the data transmitted to the particular address into the storage section.*

However, the job receiver unit 101 of Gassho merely stores received print jobs in a buffer. Gassho does not teach or suggest changing the manner in which a print job (received data) is handled depending on whether the destination address of the print job is a specific address (common address for the information processing device and one or more information processing devices) or a particular address of the information processing device itself. Therefore, Gassho cannot obviate these features of independent claim 1.

In this instance, the combination of Gassho and Riordan fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1. As demonstrated above, Gassho fails to teach or suggest “a frame

analysis section for analyzing whether the received data is data transmitted to a particular address of the information processing device or not and whether the received data is data transmitted to the specific address or not, wherein the registration processing section adds and registers all the data transmitted to the particular address into the storage section” as recited in claim 1. O’Riordan has not been, and indeed cannot be, relied upon to correct at least this deficiency of Gassho. Dependent claims 2-7, 9-10, and 31-33 are also distinguishable from the prior art at least due to their dependence from claim 1, directly or indirectly.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-7, 9-10, and 31-33 are patentable over the prior art and respectfully request that the rejection of said claims under §103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

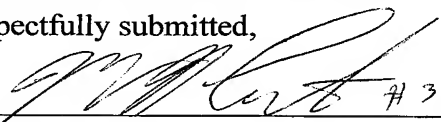
All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John R. Sanders, Reg. No. 60,166 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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